



State of South Carolina
Office of The Lieutenant Governor

André Bauer
Lieutenant Governor

Office on Aging
Cornelia Gibbons
Director

For Immediate Release:

May 2, 2006

Contact: Frank Adams
(803) 734-9912
adams@aging.sc.gov

or: David Lucas
(803) 734-9917
dlucas@aging.sc.gov

**Lt. Governor Bauer Addresses Congressional
Committee on Reauthorization of the Older Americans Act**

(Washington D.C.) Testifying before members of the U.S. House Committee on Education and the Workforce Subcommittee on Select Education, including South Carolina's Fourth District Representative Bob Inglis, Lt. Governor André Bauer today encouraged Congress to add new provisions to the federal Older Americans Act designed to give more choices to seniors served by the act and more flexibility to local providers who deliver the services funded through the Act.

In his verbal testimony, Lt. Governor Bauer talked about innovative programs and initiatives that the State Aging Office and local Aging programs in South Carolina are undertaking to prepare the state for a future in which seniors will make up a larger percentage of our population than ever before. Those initiatives include the creation of the "Senior Cube" research database, a joint project between the Office on Aging, the State Office of Research and Statistics and the University of South Carolina's Arnold School of Public Health funded by a grant from the Duke Endowment.

"I said South Carolina was building for the future by positioning for the senior boom. We believe technology, data and research can allow us to make evidence-based decisions to give us the best results as we invest our scarce tax dollars," Bauer told the Committee members. "South Carolina may be unique in its creation of a senior data cube, which links together large data bases so they may be cross referenced. We are early in this process, and have been helped, as always, by creating partnerships and being alert to private sector and foundation funding. Preliminary conclusions are showing a direct correlation between the intensity of OAA services and the avoidance of hospital ER use and in-patient admissions. "

-more-

Created in 1965, the Older Americans Act coordinates and funds services such as transportation, nutrition programs and referral to home care, health, and other social services. The reauthorization of the Act, dubbed "The Senior Independence Act of 2006," aims to strengthen the act in order to meet the needs of the baby boom generation, whose members began turning 60 this year. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, by the year 2050, persons over age 65 will reach nearly 90 million and comprise almost a quarter of the total U.S. population. This trend makes a renewal of the Older Americans Act all the more important.

A complete copy of Lt. Governor Bauer's written testimony as submitted to the House Committee is available at the Aging News Service section of the Lt. Governor's Office on Aging web site at www.aging.sc.gov.

-###-